

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 IGA-02

AGR-20 DOTE-00 SWF-02 OC-06 CCO-00 DRC-01 /157 W

----- 089288

R 170345Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7537

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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MONTREAL FOR ICAO; PARIS FOR UNESCO; ROME FOR FODAG; VIENNA FOR
UNIDO

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, UNDP

SUBJ: CERP 0008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: A) STATE 42239; B) STATE 68001

1. REF A PARA 5 A. IT APPEARS THAT UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IS
GRADUALLY EMERGING AS AN EFFECTIVE LEADER OF UNDP ACTIVITIES
AND IS TRYING HARD TO IMPROVE THE COORDINATION OF ALL UN SYSTEM
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. ON THE LATTER, THERE IS OF COURSE ROOM
FOR IMPROVEENT, AS THERE LIKELY ALWAYS WILL BE, GIVEN THE LARGE
NUMBER OF UN AGENCIES WHOSE ACTIVITIES MAY OCCASIONALLY
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OVERLAP AND WHOSE HEADS MAY HAVE DEFINITE IDEAS OF THEIR OWN

ON HOW THINGS OUGHT TO BE DONE. THE RELATION BETWEEN THE UNDP AND GOA, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN THE UNDP AND ITS PRIMARY CONTACT, THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, APPEARS TO BE QUITE GOOD. AT THE FIELD LEVEL, THE RELATIONSHIP WITH MOST OF THE UN AGENCIES APPEARS TO BE GENERALLY SATISFACTORY. AT THE HEAD-QUARTERS LEVEL, WE ARE NOT ABLE TO COMMENT. IN THE PAST THERE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL COORDINATION AND COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN UNDP AND IBRD. THE UNDP (OR A UN AGENCY) HAS IDENTIFIED PROJECTS THAT THE IBRD LATER FINANCED. FOR SOME PROJECTS (E.G., THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK AND HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE PROGRAM), THE UNDP FINANCED TECHNICAL/MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR PROJECTS MAINLY FINANCED BY IDA CREDITS AND THE IBRD HAS SERVED AS EXECUTING AGENCY FOR SOME UNDP PROJECTS. UNICEF DOES NOT DIRECTLY PARTICIPATE IN THE UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXERCISE BUT COORDINATION BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES IS GOOD. THERE IS DISCUSSION, EACH AGENCY KNOWS WHAT THE OTHER IS DOING AND THEY HAVE JOINT PROJECTS. UNICEF MAY FURNISH COMMODITIES, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR A UNDP PROJECT THAT NEEDS A COMMODITY COMPONENT.

2. REF A PARA 5 B. NO FORMAL MACHINERY HAS YET BEEN SET UP BY THE UNDP OR ANY FOREIGN ORGANIZATION TO COORDINATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THE COORDINATION IS DONE ON AN INFORMAL, PERSONAL BASIS THROUGH DISCUSSIONS AND KEEPING INFORMED ON WHAT OTHER DONORS ARE DOING OR THINKING OF DOING. USAID'S POPULATION PLANNING AND HEALTH DIVISION HELD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH UN AGENCIES THIS SPRING WHEN USAID WAS CONSIDERING PROJECTS THAT WOULD SUPPLEMENT, OR BE COMPLEMENTARY TO, PROGRAMS OF UN AGENCIES. GOA PLACES A LOW PRIORITY ON CLOSE COORDINATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A TECHNICAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION DEPARTMENT, HEADED BY A PRESIDENT, IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE UNDP IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A PLAN TO FORMALIZE COORDINATION, AT LEAST BETWEEN THE UNDP AND OTHER DONORS.

3. REF A PARA 5 C. DURING THE PAST MONTH, UNDP AND HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL SPENT 10 FULL DAYS DISCUSSING THIS YEAR'S UNDP COUNTRY PLAN WITH THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING. THE MINISTRY IS STILL DELIBERATING, HAS NOT YET MADE A FINAL DECISION, ON THE PROGRAM. AFTER THIS DECISION IS MADE, THE UNDP WILL HOLD REVIEW SESSIONS TO WHICH OTHER DONORS, EXECUTING AGENCIES, AND OFFICIALS OF THE GOA WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND. SINCE THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REVIEW HAS YET TO TAKE PLACE, WE CANNOT COMMENT ON IT. LAST YEAR'S REVIEW, UNDER A DIFFERENT RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE, LEFT SOMETHING TO BE DESIRED.

4. REF A PARA 5 D. CLOSE LIAISON IS MAINTAINED WITH ESPECIALLY THE SENIOR AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR (FAO) AND, BEFORE HE LEFT, WAS MAINTAINED WITH THE ASSISTANT RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN PROGRAMMING. WHEN THE NEW UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE WAS

APPOINTED IN THE WINTER OF 1973, BOTH HE AND THE MISSION MADE AN EFFORT TO KEEP EACH OTHER INFORMED AND THE MISSION INFORMALLY OFFERED SUGGESTIONS ON UNDP PROJECT PROPOSALS. SHORTLY AFTER CIRC A-676 WAS ISSUED THERE WAS A COUP IN AFGHANISTAN. THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS VERY SLOWLY REVIEWED ALL ON-GOING PROJECTS. BECAUSE OF THIS, PLUS THE FACT THAT A NEW UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE WAS APPOINTED IN THE WINTER OF 1973, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF CIRC A-676 HAS BEEN SLOW. THIS HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE AND HE WILL BEGIN PROVIDING SUMMARIES OF NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS. THE MISSION HAS RECEIVED NO SUMMARIES OF NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS ON WHICH TO MAKE SPECIFIC COMMENTS.

5. REF A PARA 5 E. IN THE PAST, THE UNDP HAS HAD A REAL TENDENCY TO SPREAD ITS RESOURCES THINLY OVER A LARGE NUMBER OF PROJECTS. CONSEQUENTLY, THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MOST OF ITS PROJECTS WAS GENERALLY LOWER THAN FOR OTHER DONORS. THE UNDP HAS RECENTLY BEGUN COCONSOLIDATING THE FRAGMENTS, HOWEVER, BY COMBINING PROJECTS AND HAS NOW REDUCED ITS ON-GOING PROJECTS TO 25 IN NUMBER. AN EXAMPLE OF A PARTICULARLY WEAK PROJECT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PROJECT WAS THE RINDERPEST CONTROL PROJECT. THERE HAVE BEEN TOO FEW COUNTERPARTS, VEHICLES, PETROL AND SUPPLIES AND OTHER HAS BEEN LITTLE DISCERNIBLE INTEREST IN THE PROJECT ON THE PART OF THE GOA. IN ADDITION, THE UN HAS INSTALLED NEW MANAGEMENT DURING THE ONE YEAR. THIS PROJECT IS BEING PHASED-OUT. ANOTHER WEAK PROJECT WAS THE MINOR IRRIGATION PROJECT, WHICH WAS TO FURNISH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND (AG BANXSJSRCREDIT TO FARMERS. ONLY ONE LOAN WAS MADE DURING THREE YEARS AND THE PROJECT WAS RECENTLY PHASED OUT. AN EXAMPLE OF A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT IS THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TRAINING CENTER. THE TRAINING IS GOOD AND INTEREST IF HIGH ON THE PART OF BOTH TRAINEES AND THE GOA. ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A GOOD PROJECT IS THE MANAGEMENT TEAM TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BANK. WHILE MUCH STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE, MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE PROJECT. WITH RESPECT TO THE SUFFICIENCY AND TIMELINESS OF HOST COUNTRY COUNTERPART CONTRIBUTIONS AND PERSONNEL, THESE ARE TYPICALLY TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE. THE UNDP IS TRYING TO EITHER PHASE OUT OR REVISE THOSE PROJECTS IN WHICH THE GOA SHOWS LITTLE INTEREST.

6. REF A PARA 5 F. NO TRIPARTITE REVIEWS HAVE YET BEEN HELD BUT FOUR ARE SCHEDULED FOR THIS MONTH. THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1972, THE LATEST ONE PRODUCED, WAS THE BEST YET PRESENTED BY THE UNDP, AFGHANISTAN. AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE FOR THE FIRST TIME TO DESCRIBE AND TO GIVE THE AMOUNT OF AID SUPPLIES FOR ALL PROJECT AND NON-PROJECT ASSISTANCE BY ALL DONORS. PROJECTIONS WERE MADE OF THE LIKELY AMOUNT OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO AFGHANISTAN

DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE FOURTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN. THE NEXT ANNUAL REPORT, ON WHICH WORK HAS BEGUN, WILL FOLLOW THE FORMAL OF THE 1972 REPORT. IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN UPGRADING OF THE QUALITY OF UNDP PERSONNEL OVER THE PAST YEAR.

6. REF A PARA 5 G. THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD BEGIN PROVIDING SUMMARIES OF NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS TO USAID AND IMPLEMENT A PROCEDURE FOR FORMAL DONOR COORDINATION WITH RESPECT TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CERP 0008, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, DEVELOPMENT BANKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KABUL02275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740088-0566
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740437/aaaabgyi.tel
Line Count: 180
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) STATE 42239; B) STATE 68001
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CERP 0008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
TAGS: EAID, UNDP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005